GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:49
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
PAKISTAN`S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY
RAMDAS ATHAWALE;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan`s nuclear arsenal and means of the delivery are more effective, sophisticated and much larger than India`s;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether China and North Korea are providing assistance to Pakistan in building its nuclear capability;

(d) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to meet the threat posed by Pakistan as well as raise this issue in various international forums in order to mobilise international opinion against the nuclear stockpile?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a), (b) Government is aware of media reports, claiming to be based on assessments by US officials, that Pakistan`s nuclear and missile programmes are more advanced than previously assessed. Government relies on its own assessment of Pakistan`s nuclear and missile capabilities.

(c), (d) It is established that North Korea has assisted Pakistan with long range missiles, missile technology and components; Ghauri is a Pakistani version of the North Korean `Nodong` missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Pakistan has also received nuclear capable M-11 solid fuel missiles from China. It has also acquired technology and components related to the production of solid fuel missiles, including from China. In the nuclear field, China has provided assistance, inter alia, in setting up an unsafeguarded research reactor and plutonium reprocessing facility, provided ring magnets for Uranium enrichment, heavy water, diagnostic equipment etc. It is assessed that external assistance to Pakistan`s missile and nuclear programmes is continuing.

(e) Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation`s security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security. The Government has consistently highlighted, in various fora, the adverse effect on India`s security of continuing nuclear and missile proliferation in Pakistan despite the existence of various export control regimes, and declarations of restraint and restrictions by supplier countries.